Graham County School News





Donna M. McGaughey

Volume 10, Issue 3

 \overline{P} roviding Quality Service and Support to Graham County Schools"

Please visit our website www.graham.az.gov

Superintendent's Message

Spring forward...spring cleaning...spring training...spring break....this is the time of year when students start thinking about "springing" outside where the weather is beautiful! It's hard to blame them.

Please remember that the **Arizona Department of Education Certification** Unit will be here on **Wed. March 5th** for their annual on-site certification session. No appointment needed between 12:30 and 4:00 in the Graham County General Services Building.

I am pleased to announce the formation of the Graham/Greenlee Early Childhood Coalition. All preschool and K-3 teachers are invited to attend the inaugural meeting on Tuesday March 11th at 4:00 in the General Services Building.

Please plan on registering to "save your seat at SEATA" this month. Registration will be open soon and everyone is encouraged to join us for another great academy. SEATA will be held June 2-5, 2014 on the Eastern Arizona College campus. Happy Spring!

Contact us:

Donna McGaughey Superintendent 921 Thatcher Blvd. Safford, AZ 85546 928-428-2880

Fax: 928-428-8824

dmcgaughey@graham.az.gov

Jill Davis, Chief Deputy jdavis@graham.az.gov

Polly Merriman, Deputy pmerriman@graham.az.gov

Paulette LeBlanc, Education Service Agency Coordinator pleblanc@aznex.net

Online Registration: www.graham.az.gov School Superintendent

Save the Date:

March 5— ADE on-site certification 12:30—4:00 Graham Co. Gen. Services Assembly Room

March 6—Auditor General/ADE Cash Controls training Graham Co. Gen. Services Assembly Room

March 11—Graham/Greenlee Early Childhood Coalition meeting Graham Co. Gen Services Bldg.

March 12—Friends of the Library host author Thomas Cobb 5:50—7:00 at the library

March 17—21 Spring break for most Graham County schools

March 24—Graham / Greenlee Superintendents meet in Solomon

April 22—Graham/Greenlee Substance Abuse Conference at EAC

June 2-5—SEATA at EAC



Arizona Department of Education

TEACHER CERTIFICATION ON-SITE Wednesday March 5, 2014 Graham County General Services Building Assembly Room

12:30—4:00 p.m.

Contact: Donna McGaughey
Graham County School Superintendent
928-428-2880

Services Available:

- Conversion of Provisional Certificate \$30
- Duplicate Certificate \$20
- Extension of Provisional Certificate \$20
- Name Change \$20
- Reciprocal Provisional Certificate \$60
- Removal of Deficiencies \$20
- Renewal (for each certificate) \$20
- Substitute Certificate \$60
- Provisional SEI Endorsement \$60
- Full Structured English Immersion (SEI) (<u>need to</u> <u>provide the 60 clock hours or 90 clock hours of SEI</u> <u>training certificates or official transcripts</u>) \$60

PERSONAL CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ONLY PAYABLE TO ADE (NO CASH ACCEPTED)

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State of Arizona Department of Education

Office of John Huppenthal

Superintendent of Public Instruction

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING EARLY CHILDHOOD ENDORSEMENT

Dear Education Colleagues:

In light of feedback from the field regarding a shortage of Kindergarten teachers, the Arizona Department of Education is temporarily reinstating the Early Childhood Rule (Option C) that allows teachers to qualify for the Early Childhood endorsement with three years full-time teaching experience in grades Birth-Grade 3 and a passing score on the Early Childhood Subject Knowledge exam. Individuals who do not have three years of full time teaching experience prior to July 1, 2012 will only be able to apply under this option until October 1, 2014.

Please keep in mind the Early Childhood Endorsement or Certificate is only required for Preschool and Kindergarten teachers. However, it is highly recommended that your 1st - 3rd Grade teachers take advantage of this one-time opportunity in the event they should find themselves in a Kindergarten classroom.

Individuals will need to take and pass either the NES (Test #101) or AEPA Early Childhood (Test #36) Subject Knowledge exam then submit the completed application for Certification, Verification of Teaching Experience form and a check or money order for \$60 to the Certification office **no later than September 30, 2014**.

The Certification Unit will no longer be able to work with individuals who do not have three years of full time teaching experience in Early Childhood prior to July 1, 2012 and want to qualify under Option C after September 30, 2014. If individuals do not submit their applications by September 30, 2014 they will be required to obtain the Early Childhood endorsement through either Option A or B.

Please contact

Jan Pentek or Kasey Ohrns at 602-542-4000 if you have further questions.

1535 West Jefferson Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007 • (602) 542-4367 • www.azed.gov

Join Us For A Mock Car Accident March 11, 2014 At Eastern Arizona College



Graham County and Greenlee County Substance Abuse Coalitions along with EAC Gear Up are hosting this event for

Juniors and Seniors from area high schools and

Eastern Arizona College Students



Where: EAC Football Field

615 N Stadium Ave, Thatcher, AZ 85552

Time: 9:00am- 11:30am

Date: Tuesday March 11th



Buses need to be at the college between 8:30am and 8:45am

The mock car accident is from 9am-10am followed by the guest speaker from 10am- 10:30am. Informational booths for the students will be from 10:30am- 11:30am

For More Information Contact

Kathy 928.348.1751

or

Briana 928.348.1756

Sponsored By:

*Life Net *AirEvac * Graham and Greenlee Health Departments

*Caldwell Funeral Home *Home Valley Auto

*SouthWest Ambulance *Local Law Enforcement Agencies and Fire Departments *Graham Alliance and Tobacco
Education *Nutcracker Towing *Cenpatico *EAHEC *SEABHS



Special Thanks To:

Eastern Arizona College

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Expect More Arizona is building engaged leadership and public commitment to ensure a world-class education system for all students. We raise public awareness, educate, advocate and mobilize Arizonans to support these five building blocks:



World-Class Academic Achievement

Arizona students are prepared for and successful in college and career, and they complete postsecondary education ready to compete with their peers around the world for the best jobs.



Excellence for All

Arizonans embrace the state's diversity and value the potential of every child's life. Every Arizona student has the opportunity to attain an excellent education, regardless of zip code, background, or special need.



Commitment to Innovation

Arizona students are critical thinkers and innovative problem solvers who are prepared for the jobs we want in Arizona and who will strengthen Arizona's global leadership and quality of life.



Strategic Investment

New and existing resources are strategically invested in Arizona's students, birth through career, to improve student achievement and to grow the number of world-class educators and schools.



Communities Working Together

Arizona's business and community leaders, elected leaders, voters, educators, parents and students work together with urgency, optimism and a long-term view to ensure that every Arizona student succeeds in college, career and life.

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Spelling Bee Information

Congratulations to Callie Konopnicki, 6th grader at Ruth Powell School in the Safford Unified School District, for winning the 2014 Graham County Spelling Bee. Konopnicki, 6th grader at Ruth Powell School in the Safford Unified School District. She is our 2014 Graham County Spelling Bee winner! We also send congratulations to runner-up Brigham Lee from Thatcher.

Callie will compete in the Arizona State Spelling Bee on March 29, 2014 in Phoenix at the Eight/AZ PBS studios. Congratulations Callie!

March 29, 2014: Arizona Spelling bee will be held in Phoenix at Eight/AZ PBS

Late May / Early June 2014: Scripps National Spelling Bee will be held in Washington, D.C.



















Meet the Author - Thomas Cobb

Award-winning author of *Crazy Heart* to read from his new novel With Blood in Their Eyes

Wednesday March 12, 2014

5:30—7:00 p.m.

Safford City-Graham County Library

808 S. 7th Avenue / Phone: 928-348-3202

Free and open to the public. Books made available for sale through the Friends of the Safford City-Graham County Library.

Winner of the Western Writers of America 2013 Spur Award!

Thomas Cobb is the author of *Crazy Heart, Acts of Contrition and Shavetail*. He grew up in Tucson, Arizona, and lived for a number of years in Graham County, where he learned the story of the Power boys. He is a professor emeritus at Rhode Island College and lives in Foster, Rhode Island.

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From Paul Anger, Eastern Arizona College Discovery Park and E.A.S.I.

2014 Eastern Arizona Regional Science Fair Competition

- The Regional Science Fair is open to all Eastern Arizona (Graham and Greenlee Counties)
 School Districts and Charter Schools
- There will be three levels of participation: 5th & 6th grade, 7th & 8th grade, and open high school. There will be three categories in each level: earth science, life science and physical science
- All projects will be judged by EAC and upper-level science faculty
- 1st & 2nd place winners will receive trophies, place ribbons and certificates of participation
- 3rd place and honorable mention winners will receive place ribbons and certificates of participation

The Overall Winners in <u>each</u> grade level will receive:

Kindle Fire HD with email, web and phone

7" HD screen * up to 10 hour battery life * dual stereo speakers

Dual-band wi-fi * 8 GB of storage

Plus, all 1st place winners will receive a full tuition scholarship to the 2014 EASI Summer Science Camp, hosted by Discovery Park Campus and Eastern Arizona College

Project displays must be delivered to the EAC Discovery Park Campus—Ranch House by Thursday March 6, 2014

Public Viewing:

Thursday March 6, 2014 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Friday March 7, 2014 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Saturday March 8, 2014 3:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Awards Ceremony—Saturday March 8th in the DPC Ranch House

For more information, contact <u>your</u> science teacher or Paul Anger, Eastern Arizona Science Initiative: paul.anger@eac.edu





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- Increase employment opportunities
- Decrease college or technical training costs

Gila Institute for Technology

GIFT now registering for 2014-2015

Central Programs Offered

Fire Science - Certified Nursing Assistant - Lab Assistant
Pharmacy Technician - Sports Medicine and Rehab Therapies
Cosmetology - Graphic Design - Individual Programs
Drafting - Welding - Autos - Media - Computers

Check out our website and apply at www.gift-tech.org
Or call 928-348-3393

Who is Eligible?

- High School students in Graham and Greenlee Counties
- Anyone under the age of 22 who does not have a high school diploma and meets the program entrance requirements.

Paulette LeBlanc, FTF Community Outreach Coordinator

Phone: (928) 428-9330

Email: pleblanc@aznex.net

Soft Skills: Critical to the Workforce

Somehow the ability to communicate, get along with others, control emotions, self-motivate, think creatively and solve problems have come to be known as "soft skills" – a term that makes them sound nice, but unnecessary. Yet, all you have to do is interact with someone who lacks these skills to know how critical they are. Employers certainly do. A 2013 survey of employers found that 93% agreed that a candidate's demonstrated soft skills are more important than their undergraduate major. Business professionals report that despite a high unemployment rate, they have jobs they cannot fill because of a lack of social (soft) skills. James Heckman, Nobel Laureate economist notes, "Character skills turn knowledge into know-how and people into productive citizens."

But, why is this being shared through a First Things First article? Because we know that soft skills (also known as executive functions) take root from birth to five years old. Learning to play with others develops language skills and improved teamwork. Making up games and rules develops negotiations skills. Learning to follow rules develops ethics. Early exploration develops creative thinking and problem solving.

Successful people have well developed executive functions. This is just another reminder that early childhood experiences follow a person through a lifetime. We must give children the tools to develop these essential skills.

An Invitation...

Graham/Greenlee Early Childhood Coalition

Open the door between early childhood and primary grades by joining us in this inaugural event. Your feedback will shape the work of this new organization.

Tuesday March 11, 2014

4:00 p.m.—5:30 p.m.

Graham County General Services Building, Safford

Sponsored by:

Donna McGaughey, Graham County School Superintendent
Tom Powers, Greenlee County School Superintendent
JoAnn Morales, EAC Early Childhood Instructor

Please RSVP to Paulette LeBlanc at pleblanc@aznex.net by Tues. March 4th



The Safford City / Graham County Library offers services beyond checking out books. The Graham County School Superintendent has partnered with the library to offer homework help for students from kindergarten through college. **It's free to Graham County students.** Visit the library's homepage at www.cityofsafford.us and click on the *Homework Help* icon. This will lead you to the icon for **Tutor.com**. "Check out" this free tool and get help on any subject.

Citizens looking for help with finding a job should take advantage of the services offered by Job Skills Instructor, Kevin Hansen. Mr. Hansen offers help in finding jobs and preparing resumes. Additionally, he will help coach job seekers as they practice their interview skills. This is a great service!

The library has partnered with *First Things First* to enhance literacy skills in our youngest population. In addition to story time, parents can bring their children to the Brain Box sessions and other preschool activities scheduled throughout the year. The library has secured a grant from First Things First to fund the Imagination Library Book Club. Children ages birth through five can be signed up to receive a free, age-appropriate book in the mail each month. These are just a few of the wonderful things families can explore due to the partnerships formed by the library.

Visit the Safford City / Graham County Library in person or online!



The Safford City—Graham County Library has partnered with the Arizona State Library to bring a fabulous FREE database of eBooks to our students!

Visit www.saffordlibrary.org

On the left side of the screen, click on "TumbleBooks / eBooks for Kids

"Check out" the titles, which now include non-fiction!

The books are indexed by reading levels, grade, and lexile.

Take advantage of this valuable opportunity—it's free!

Visit the Gift Shop!

Safford City / Graham County Library

808 S. Seventh Ave.

Safford, AZ 85546 928-432-4165

Hours: Mon.—Thursday 10:00 a.m. —7:00 p.m. Closed Friday—Sunday

Staying In Tune With Substance

9th Annual
Graham and Greenlee
Substance Abuse Awareness
Conference 2014
Eastern Arizona College
Activities Center
April 22,2014

With Guest Speakers:
Barbara Bruce & Scott Backovich

Sponsored By:

Scheduled presenters:

Derek Rapier—Greenlee County Attorney
Shana Malone—Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
Officer Ellison and Officer Shurtz—Arizona DPS
Shelly Mowrey—Prevention Works AZ LLC
Craig Miller—AZ Dept. of Liquor Licenses and Control
\$25.00 registration fee (lunch will be provided)
To register, contact Kathy Grimes at 928-348-1751 or 928-348-1756
Registration deadline is April 11, 2014

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Professional Development Opportunities/ Grant Funding Alerts

Esri Education Site License Program for Arizona K-12 Schools

Arizona has a statewide site license for this program and it is at **no cost**. The license may be free, but if you are new to Geographic Information Systems (GIS), you will want to do some self-training before you install it at your school. It is highly likely that you don't need the full package. For small projects, you may find the free software available on the Esri website is easier for you to utilize.

If you are new to GIS, we highly encourage you to do the basics at http://www.esri.com/what-isgis

You can apply or the full Esri software: http://perceval.bio.nau.edu/grail_form/default.as px

KaBOOM! Let's Play Grants Deadlines: Rolling

Dr. Pepper Snapple Group & KaBOOM! Are excited to offer \$500 Let's Play Completion Grants to qualifying Do-It-Yourself communities to be used toward the improvement of an existing playground built using the KaBoom! Community build model and \$750 Let's Play Maintenance Grants to communities who wish to make their playgrounds cleaner, safer and more inviting.

http://kaboom.org/about_kaboom/programs/grants

VEX Robotics

Schools interested in learning more about VEX Robotics and available grants should visit http://www.vexrobotics.com

www.roboticseducation.org www.robotevents.com

D-Backs Program Grants

D-Backs program grants are given statewide to non-profit organizations. Funds for these grants are raised throughout the season through team fundraising events, including the annual Evening on the Diamond benefit dinner, Shirts Off Our D-Backs and additional events. All 501(c) 3 non-profit organization in Arizona are welcome to apply for funding, however, funding must be serving the people of Arizona. The deadline is open and the amount of grant funding available for projects is \$1,000—\$5,000. For more info:

http://arizona.diamondbacks.mlb.com/ari/commu nity/grants.jsp

Radio Disney Hero for Change Award Deadline: March 16

Radio Disney is offering young changemakers the chance to be a Hero for Change. Winners receive a \$1,000 award, plus a chance to meet other amazing young people.

http://www.ysa.org/radiodisney

Youth Program Grants Deadline: Open

Sponsor: The Entertainment Software Association Foundation

Amount: Varies

Type: Social & Economic, Arts & Culture

The ESA Foundation is dedicated to supporting positive programs and opportunities that make a difference in the lives of America's youth.

http://www.esafoundation.org/application.asp

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Grant Funding Alerts

It's never too early to start working on a grant!

Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, Inc. Grants

Mini-Grants for Education Application Window: May 1st -Oct. 30th

(Start planning for next year!)

Grants in the range of \$100—\$500 a school is eligible to receive up to four mini-grants per year Additional grant opportunities are available including the STEM Education grant. Graham County received nearly \$500,000 in the recent round of Community Investment Fund grant awards held in August. Several schools received grants, including Thatcher Unified, Safford Unified, Pima Elementary, and Solomon Elementary School District.

Thank you Freeport-McMorRan!

Strengthening Secondary Education

Deadline: Open

Amount: \$100,000—\$200,000

Sponsor: Arthur Vining Davis Foundation

Type: Education

Grants are made for innovative professional development programs that strengthen teachers and

their teaching in grades 9-12.

http://www.avdf.org/FoundationsPrograms/SecondaryEducation.aspx

KaBOOM! Spruce Project Grants

Deadline: Rolling

Are you itching to serve? Organize your friends, clean up a playground, and you can be come eligible for \$750, courtesy of Dr. Pepper Snapple Group. The grant is part of the Let's Play initiative to get kids and families active.

http://grants.kaboom.org

DoSomething.org Seed Grants Deadline: ongoing

Are you working to start a community action project or program with your friends? Do you need money to put your ideas into action? A \$500 DoSomething Seed Grant is given out every week to help young people like you!

Visit the website: www.dosomething.org/grants/seed-grants

Daily Point of Light Award Deadline: Rolling

The power of the individual to spark change and improve the world—that's what the Daily Point of Light Award celebrates. Nominate a local hero for this award. Recognition includes a certificate signed by President George H.W. Bush.

http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/recognition

Instrument and Equipment Awards

Deadline: Open

Amount: Varies

Sponsor: Fender Music Foundation

Type: Arts and Culture

The Fender Music Foundation awards instruments and equipment to eligible music instruction programs. These items are lightly used, blemished, or otherwise imperfect and have been collected from manufacturers and retailers. The organization is currently awarding acoustic guitars, electric guitars, etc.

http://www.fendermusicfoundation.org/grants/ grants-info/

Free Classroom Supplies Are Now Available for Teachers!

How to help a teacher:

- Visit the NAEIR website at www.naeir.org
- 2. Click on the Teacher's Program drop down
- 3. Click on the View Products to view the products that are available through this program.
- 4. Interested teachers can register for the program—the registration fee is only \$9.00. Click on the Teacher's Program Registration.
- 5. The day after registering, the new member of the Teacher's Program will receive and invitation to set up a Login I.D.

The Dupont Challenge© Science Essay Competition - As one of the foremost student science and technology prize programs in the U.S. and Canada, the Challenge helps to increase science literacy among students and motivates them to excel in communicating scientific ideas. Students in grades 7-12 are asked to write a 700 to 1,000 word essay in one of four categories: food, energy, protection, or innovation. Prizes include U.S. Savings Bonds and a special awards trip to the Walt Disney World® Resort and the Kennedy Space Center. Teachers advising winning students receive a cash grant, the awards trip, and an expenses-paid trip to the Conference NSTA **National** Science Education. on Learn more at http://thechallenge.dupont.com/sponsors/nsta.php

News from the Arizona Geographic Alliance

Contact: Cathy L. Davis, AzGA Arizona State University
School of Geographical Sciences & Urban Planning
PO box 875301 Tempe, AZ 85287-5302 cathy.davis@asu.edu
480-965-5361



Kavli Science-In-Fiction Contest http://teachers.egfi-k12.org/kavli-science-contest/

Now in its third year, the Kavli science video contest gives middle and high school students the opportunity to investigate how science is portrayed in TV, films, and games, then make a 30 to 90 second video about how current or emerging technologies could help realize those science fiction concepts.

Entry period runs from Nov. 1, 2013 to March 21, 2014

Doodle4Google—http://www.google.com/doodle4google/

Doodle 4 Google is an annual program that invites K-12 students in the United States to use their artistic talents to think big and redesign our homepage logo for millions to see. In 2013 students were asked to exercise their creative imaginations around the theme, "My Best Day Ever..." One talented student artist will see their artwork appear on the Google homepage, receive a \$30,000 college scholarship, and a \$50,000 technology grant for their school!

Population Pyramids of the World from 1950 to 2100 http://populationpyramid.net/ Western+Europe/2015/

Choose a year and then click on a country, continent or region. Fast and very visual.

A Geologist in Grand Canyon—Map Story

http://uagis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=80feff6a932c43e389db197dcf9c4681
Join geologist Steve Rauzi (Arizona Geological survey) and a team of geoscientists as they reaft through Grand Canyon examining the Precambrian Chuar Group. The trip, which occurred in 1996, begins at Lees Ferry and ends at river-mile 226. In a sequence of 29 captioned images, you'll see the Grand Canyon and some of its tributary canyons as a geologist sees them.

Designed for the K-12 education community as a visual vehicle for introducing the geography and geology of Grand Canyon, <u>A Geologist in Grand Canyon—Map Story</u> is a product of the Arizona Geological Survey. The tour was built in ESRI's ArcGIS Online. For additional information contact Mike Conway (Michael.conway@azgs.az.gov) or 520-209-4146.

Google Science Fair 2014

The Google Science Fair 2014 has now launched in partnership with LEGO Education, National Geographic, Scientific American and Virgin Galactic. **Students aged 13-18 from around the world** are invited to ask questions and answer them through science experiments with a chance to win once-in-a-lifetime experiences, scholarships and real-life work opportunities. Check the Official Rules for more information.

For more specific info for teachers: https://www.googlesciencefair.com/en/teachers-parents/teachers

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Spring Courses Start 3/26

This year, **spring forward** by taking a PBS TeacherLine course and pick up the skills you need to lead a winning class!

Featured Courses:

Choose from 15, 30, and 45-hour courses that will spark new ideas, expand your skill set, and help you earn CEUs*

- Promoting Digital Media Literacy in Students (Grades K-12)
- Project Based Learning in the Connected Classroom (Grades K-12)

Visit http://www.pbs.org/teacherline

Digital Resources

Did you know that PBS LearningMedia puts over 600 FREE lesson plans at your fingertips? Just search by grade, subject, or keyword to uncover creative activities and new approaches to learning.

Flip It Grades 5-13+ Lesson Plan Engineering Design

Discover how PBS LearningMedia can help you flip your classroom and pick up tips for converting lesson plans into flipped classroom experiences.

Planning a Budget Grades 3-5 Lesson Plan Finance and Budgeting

Show students how important math skills are in the real-world by inviting them to follow Harry on a date! See how he manages his budget when an uninvited guest shows up.

Visit pbslearningmedia.org

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The SE Arizona Workforce Connection team promotes and supports a workforce system that offers employers, workers and communities across Cochise, Graham and Greenlee Counties workforce solutions that achieve and sustain economic prosperity.

1910 W. Thatcher Blvd. Safford, AZ 928-432-6932 ww.seazworkforce.org

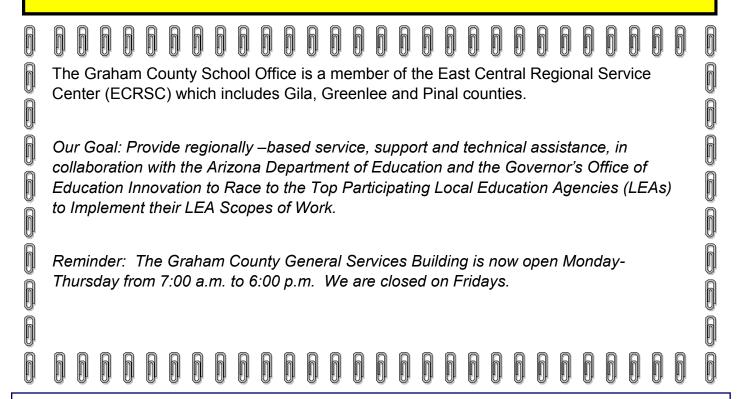
Kimberly Termain, Business Development/Outreach Coordinator ktermain@cpic-cas.org

Several Graham County Social Studies teachers took advantage of the "Virtual Economics / Strand 5" training recently hosted by the Graham County School Superintendent. One really interesting and useful statistics website demonstrated in the training was www.gapminder.org

Check it out!

Assistive Technology Loan Library

Arizona Dept. of Education Exceptional Student Services has partnered with Northern Arizona University's Technology Access Program to make available, at no cost, a wide variety of assistive technology. Forms are available at www.adeatloan.org or email atloanlibrary@nau.edu



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